

FACT SHEET

Winter 2006

Monterey County, California

For Public Use

FORMER FORT ORD MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

SITE BACKGROUND

Fort Ord is a 28,000-acre former Army base located near Monterey Bay in northwest Monterey County.

Fort Ord became a training installation in 1917 and was used to train Army infantry, cavalry, and field artillery units for WWI and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. Training activities included the firing of a variety of military munitions.

The site was included on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list in 1991 and closed in 1994.

Since then, removal actions have been performed to address the explosive hazards posed by military munitions remaining at former training sites on the base, and to prepare Fort Ord property to be transferred to federal, state, and local agencies.

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet recaps the significant events of the Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). It is provided as part of the community relations program.

For more information on the MMRP, log on to our website at www.fortordcleanup.com; visit the information repository in the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) library; visit the Fort Ord Administrative Record office in the Ord Military Community at Building 4463, Room 101, Gigling Road; or contact Melissa Broadston by e-mail at melissa.broadston@monterey.army.mil or by phone at (831) 393-1284.



Ranges 43–48 Munitions Response Update

CURRENT INTERIM ACTION WORK COMPLETE

The Army has finished the current interim action work at Ranges 43-48. The last field activities, sifting operations at Range 45 and contractor and government quality inspections, were completed in November 2005.

Interim Action Summary

In 2002, the Army determined that an interim action was needed at Ranges 43-48 and two other sites (MRS-16 and Range 30A) while the Army continued its ongoing basewide Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS). An interim action was needed at these sites because they are near the public, prone to trespassing, and known to contain sensitively fuzed munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on the surface.

The Ranges 43–48 interim action began in October 2003 with a prescribed burn that removed the dense brush covering the site.

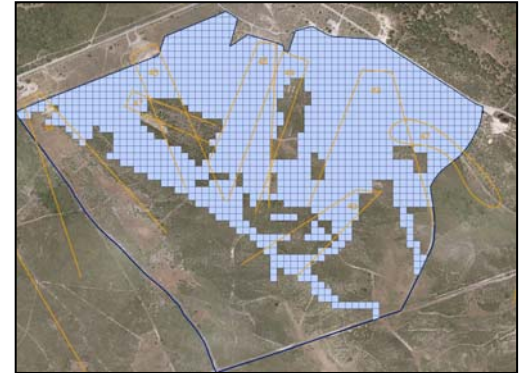
With the ground cleared of vegetation, the Army removed the MEC from the surface of the entire site. The Army found over 4,500 MEC on the surface, including over 600 high explosive (HE) projectiles and rockets, and over 3,500 subcaliber practice rockets.

After the surface removal, the Army hauled away, sheared, and recycled the hundreds of range targets littering the site. The range targets included tanks, armored personnel carriers, vehicles, and other metal objects.

With the surface MEC and range targets gone, the Army was able to begin searching for MEC in the subsurface. The Army used analog and then digital geophysical detection instruments to locate MEC below the ground surface. The Army found over 4,000 MEC in the subsurface, including over 600 HE projectiles and thousands of practice subcaliber rockets and projectiles. All MEC items were destroyed by detonation.

Firing Ranges Identified as Special-Case Areas

The subsurface MEC removal work, though, could not be completed in some portions of the firing ranges in Ranges 43–48. These are



Interim action work has been completed on 271 acres of Ranges 43–48. The work completed (shaded blue) and remaining explosive risks at the site will be evaluated under the Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS).

Ranges 43–48 Cleanup by the Numbers

Status of work at 500-acre site (as of 1/1/06)

- 500 acres surface cleared
- 271 acres subsurface cleared
- 3.4 million anomalies investigated
- 10,762 MEC recovered
- 278,587 lb of munitions debris removed

the ranges that contained most of the targets removed from the site. The targets were heavily fired upon during weapons training activities. The metallic debris leftover from these training activities prevented the geophysical detection instruments from detecting individual anomalies (anomalies are irregular items that potentially represent MEC in the subsurface).

The portions of Ranges 43–48 where the subsurface removal could not be conducted are classified as special-case areas. These areas require extra work to remove the metallic clutter so the subsurface can be searched using the geophysical instruments.

One possible downside of such work is that it could disturb the rejuvenated habitat flourishing on the site following the prescribed burn.

Range 45 Cleared

One of the areas the Army was able to clear was Range 45, an approximately (See back)

Ranges 43–48 Update *(continued from front)*

14-acre former grenade range. The Army scraped off the top 2 ft of soil from the ground to remove the metallic clutter. The Army was able to excavate Range 45 because it lies outside habitat areas and it is planned for development.

After the ground was scraped and the excavated soil sifted, removal crews were able to search for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) in the subsurface using geophysical detection instruments.

The MEC removal crews found over 1,100 MEC during the cleanup of Range 45, including over 100 HE 40mm projectiles, 100 practice 35mm rockets, and 50 hand grenades.

Other Ranges Areas to be Evaluated

Other areas like the Range 47 and 48 areas could not be cleared under the current scope of work and will be evaluated under the Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS). Ranges 48, the largest of the ranges, contained most of the metal targets removed from the site. The targets were scattered all over the range, which means that most of the range is affected by metallic clutter. Range 47 is much smaller, but it lies in a habitat area and may require sifting.

Explosive Risks Reduced

The Army has significantly reduced the explosive risks posed to the public by MEC at Ranges 43-48. The Army removed the small, easily portable, and potentially sensitive MEC items from the surface of Ranges 43-48. These surface items posed the greatest hazard to the public because they could have been picked up by a trespasser.

The remaining explosive risks at Ranges 43-48 and the interim action work completed will be evaluated under the MR RI/FS.

The Army is now preparing a technical information paper describing the activities and results of the interim action work. The document is scheduled to be available to the public and regulatory agencies for review in Spring 2006.

Other MMRP News

Interim Action at MRS-16 Planned

The Army is now planning the interim action at munitions response site (MRS)-16, which is scheduled to begin later this year. Like at Ranges 43-48, the interim action at MRS-16 includes a prescribed burn followed by surface and subsurface MEC removal work.

For the MRS-16 prescribed burn, the Army is proposing that the temporary relocation program be discontinued. This was explained in the MRS-16 Proposed Plan, which was made available to the public for review. The 60-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan ends March 29, 2006.

Phase II Work Done on MOCO.2

The Army completed the Phase II removal work on the 33-acre MRS-MOCO.2 in December 2005.

Phase II removal work focused on 6 acres of the site where the subsurface could not be investigated for MEC under Phase I because of obstacles such as asphalt, culverts, and the site fence.

Under the Phase II operations on MOCO.2, the Army did the following:

- Scraped, sifted, and investigated underneath the asphalt Range 44 pad and a smaller pad to the southwest.
- Investigated the areas along the old metallic site fence and replaced the fence with a new 4-strand barbed wire and razor wire fence.
- Excavated culverts and then investigated the areas from which they were removed. This required digging parts of Eucalyptus Road, which the Army has since repaired.

During Phase II, the Army found four MEC. Under Phase I, the Army investigated all accessible parts of MOCO.2 and recovered over 550 MEC.

MEC removal work at MOCO.2 is now complete. The site will be evaluated under the MR RI/FS

The Army is preparing an after-action report (AAR) summarizing the Phase II work. The AAR is scheduled to be available for review in Spring 2006.

2005 Fuel Break Maintenance Done

The Army completed its annual maintenance work on the system of 45-ft to 200-ft-wide fuel breaks in and around the base's approximately 8,000-acre Impact Area.

The Army cut approximately 245 acres of re-grown brush from the fuel breaks. This was done to keep the fuel breaks clear of anything that could burn in the event of a wildfire in the Impact Area.

Current MMRP Field Work Finished

The Army has finished all current (MMRP) field activities. During the past 5-year period between 2000 and 2005, the Army accomplished the following:

- Finished the removal work in the Del Rey Oaks and MOCO.2 sites.
- Completed most of the removal work in the Seaside and Ranges 43-48 sites.
- Completed time-critical removal actions in 11 sites.
- Re-established the Impact Area fuel breaks system.

MEC removal work under the MMRP will be completed in the near future.

General Information

Site Name:

Former Fort Ord

Location:

Monterey County, CA

Point of Contact:

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Fort Ord MMRP Statistics

(1994 through January 1, 2006)

- **12.9 million** anomalies investigated
- **7,874** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- **811,636 lb** of munitions debris removed

Site Map

